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SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 19, 1904.

The Tax Principle.

By an annoying typographical error we
were made to say in yesterday's paper
that the Constitution of Virginia pro-
vided for a franchise tax of 10 per cent.
upon the gross earnings of railroad cor-
porations. The error was so glaring that
we hope the reader readily detected it.
The tax is 1 per cent, and not 10.

While on the subject we may as well
state for the benefit of outside readers
what the constitutional provisions are
for the taxing of corporations in this
State.

First of all, it is provided in Article
XIII, of the new Constitution that "all
taxes, whether State, local or municipal,
shall be uniform upon the same class
of subjects within the territorial limits
of the authority levying the tax." The
General Assembly may in its discretion
make distinct groups of the several sub-
jects of taxation and form them into
classes. But when the classes have been
formed, the taxation of the subjects in
each class must be equal and uniform.

The exception to this is that "the Gen-
eral Assembly may allow a lower rate
of taxation to be imposed for a period
of years by a city or town upon land
added to its corporate limits than is im-
posed on similar property within its
limits at the time such land is added." It
is under this provision that Richmond
proposes to take in new territory with-
out raising for the time being the tax
rate.

It is further provided in section 170 of
Article XIII, that "the General Assem-
bly may impose State franchise taxes
and in imposing a franchise tax may,
in its discretion, make the same in lieu
of taxes upon other property, in whole
or in part, of a transportation, industrial
or commercial corporation. Whenever a
franchise tax shall be imposed upon a
corporation doing business in this State,
or whenever all the capital, however in-
vested, of a corporation chartered un-
der the laws of this State, shall be tax-
ed, the shares of stock issued by any
such corporation, shall not be further tax-
ed."

This carries into effect the principle
stated by us yesterday that whenever the
stockholders of a corporation are taxed
as an organization on all their property,
including the franchise, they are exempt
from taxation as individual holders.

The same provision applies especially
to railroad corporations. Under section
176 of this article the State Corporation
Commission is required to ascertain and
assess annually the value of road-bed and
other real estate, rolling stock and all
other personal property whatsoever of the
railroads, except their franchise and non-
taxable shares of stock issued by other
corporations, and such property shall be
taxed for State, county, city, town and
district purposes, at such rates of taxa-
tion as may be imposed by them respec-
tively from time to time upon the real
estate and personal property of natural
persons; provided that no tax shall be
laid upon the net income of such a cor-
poration.

In addition to this, it is provided that
each such railway or canal corporation
shall also pay an annual State franchise
tax equal to 1 per cent upon the gross
receipts from year to year, which shall
be in lieu of all other taxes or license
taxes whatsoever upon the franchise of
such corporation, the shares of stock
issued by it, and upon its property assess-
ed under section 176 above cited. There
are some exceptions in the matter of
street railways, but the general principle
is as stated.

It is perfectly clear that where a cor-
poration thus pays taxes on all its prop-
erty lying in a given State, including
the franchise tax, its shares of stock
held in other States should be exempt.
Of course, some complications arise in
the matter of interstate corporations—
that is to say of corporations owning
property and doing business in more than
one State. But this broad principle can-
not be successfully attacked; that when
a corporation is assessed and taxed upon
all its real and personal property and fur-
ther taxed upon its capital stock or gross
earnings, or otherwise, as a franchise
tax, its shares of stock, no matter where
held, should be exempt. We repeat that
it is a monstrous example of double tax-
ation to tax the shareholders in any cor-
poration as a body upon all their prop-
erty, real and personal and upon the
franchise, and in addition to tax them as
individuals upon their separate share
holdings.

Our Public School Buildings.

Several days ago we submitted some
remarks through these columns upon the
subject of utilizing the public school
buildings of the city during the idle hours
for purposes of incidental education. Spe-
cial notice was made of the system in
vogue in New York city of using the
buildings at odd times for night schools,
for popular lectures and for purposes of
recreation. It is hardly necessary to say
that the efficient members of the school
board of Richmond had already given
careful consideration to this subject, but
there are obstacles in the way which
for the time being cannot be overcome.
Foremost of all is the lack of sufficient
means. It requires nearly the entire ap-
propriation to carry on the day schools,
and the members of the board say that
unless there should be a material in-
crease they would not be able to open the
buildings at night and provide light and
fuel, and the service of instructors and
janitors. A faithful attempt was made
to carry on night schools, but the at-
tendance was so poor that the project
was abandoned, although it is proposed
to open at an early day a night school
in Fulton.

It is humiliating to state that at one
point, where a night school was in pro-
gress, a gang of toughs hung around
at night and made themselves so offen-
sive that it was necessary to call for
police protection, and as this could not
be procured a watchman was employed,
and was set upon by the toughs, and
beaten. The toughs made these raids be-
cause they were opposed to having any
of their fellows attend a night school.
But, fellow-citizens of Richmond, in the
name of public morals and common de-
cency, and in the name of humanity, does
this not show that some sort of edu-
cational and moral influences should be
brought to bear upon these enemies of
education? Does it not show that night
schools or some sort of schools for that
element are sadly needed.

We wish to state that the article in
question was written in no dictatorial
spirit, but in a spirit of suggestiveness.
It is for those in charge to determine
whether or not such suggestions as these
are practicable, and the members of the
school board say that they are not with
the present means at their command.
This does not alter the fact, however,
that our school buildings should be used
as much as possible for incidental in-
struction, and when public sentiment is
ripe for it, it goes without saying that
the means will be forthcoming.

We take pleasure in stating that the
members of the school board are now
endeavoring to educate public sentiment
in these directions. Under a recent pro-
vision teachers in the several schools
authorize their pupils to invite parents
or guardians to attend school during re-
creation hours, and see for themselves
the methods of instruction. The invita-
tions are appreciated, and a large per-
centage of parents and guardians at-
tend. Arrangements have also been
made for lectures to the patrons of the
schools, to teachers and to pupils, es-
pecially attention being given to the lec-
tures on patrons. A number of distin-
guished educators from various parts
of the State have agreed to supply the
lectures and good results will be forth-
coming.

All these agencies are being employed
for the education of popular sentiment,
and it is sentiment that makes the laws
and supplies the money. We are from
all this encouraged to believe that the
time will come when each and every
public school building in Richmond will
be an educational center, when there will
be a few idle hours, and when this
great and expensive plant will be uti-
lized to its full capacity in the direction
of popular education.

Educational Endowments.

This is an age of great fortunes. There
are more millionaires than the world ever
before knew, and the millionaires have
more millions. But it is fair to say, on
the other hand, that there never was an
age when so much money was given away
for good purposes. The contributions to
the church and the contributions to
charitable institutions are growing all
the time, and the benefactions received
by institutions of learning are enormous.
Dr. Harris, Commissioner of Education,
in his recent report, shows that these
benefactions in the United States during
the year 1903 amounted to \$17,037,967.

The following table shows the amounts
enjoyed by thirty-one institutions which
received more than \$100,000 each:

University of Chicago.....	\$2,933,333
University of Wisconsin.....	1,657,747
University of Pennsylvania.....	1,058,583
Yale University.....	565,725
Bryn Mawr College (Pennsyl- vania).....	572,142
Syracuse University (New York) City.....	571,993
Columbia University (New York City).....	501,231
Oberlin College (Ohio).....	404,434
Barnard College (New York City)	402,339
Brown University (Rhode Island).....	365,307
Cornell University (New York).....	355,502
Reinold College (Wisconsin).....	355,000
Western Reserve University (Ohio)	294,690
University of Wooster (Ohio).....	254,000
Adelphi College (New York).....	250,000
Pennsylvania State College.....	250,000
Smith College (Massachusetts).....	217,000
Allegheny College (Pennsylvania).....	200,000
Evangelical University (Indiana).....	175,345
Coe College (Iowa).....	170,000
Stevens Institute of Technology (New Jersey).....	160,000
Washington University (Missouri).....	157,000
Massachusetts Institute of Tech- nology.....	147,938
University of Southern California.....	134,000
Trinity College (North Carolina).....	130,000
Dos Moines College (Iowa).....	125,000
Georgetown College (Pennsylvania).....	125,000
Washington and Lee University (Virginia).....	102,000
Baylor University (Texas).....	100,000

It may be contended that this money is
given by rich men for the selfish purpose
of building monuments to themselves, but
no matter what the motive, the educa-
tional institutions are getting the benefit,
and the millions thus contributed are
going towards the improvement of the
human race.

To the Southern man, however, it is
distressing to know that of the total
amount of benefactions received in 1903,
47.6 per cent was reported by institutions
in the North Atlantic division, while only
1.9 per cent was reported by those in

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Christian Association, on Thursday evening
last.

The audience to which Dr. Yanaga
spoke was made up of the most highly
cultured and thoughtful element in the
city, instructors, students and literateurs,
who eagerly embraced the opportunity
to listen to an elucidation of the compli-
cated war problem in the far East. The
Doctor, who was introduced by the Rev.
William Menckler, of St. James Epis-
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As an educational factor and element
of educational strength and progress, the
public schools of this country are each
year becoming more important. Every
State is willing to be taxed for the public
instruction of its children, and every year
the tax payers realize that the educa-
tional tax is the cheapest and best one they
have to pay, in its resulting benefits.

The Raleigh Times remarks:
The cotton picking machine and the
sowing machine are still in their swadd